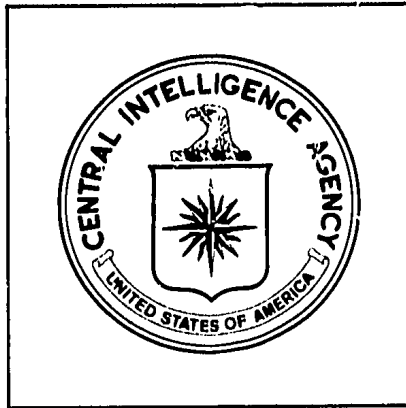


25X1

Approved For Release 2005/04/27 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000400010024-2

Approved For Release 2005/04/27 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000400010024-2

Top Secret



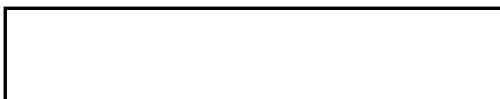
STAFF NOTES:

Middle East Africa South Asia

State Department review completed

NSA review completed

25X1



25X1

Top Secret
127

February 4, 1975

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/04/27 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000400010024-2

Approved For Release 2005/04/27 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000400010024-2

MIDDLE EAST - AFRICA - SOUTH ASIA

25X1

CONTENTS

Qatar: Trouble Simmers Under Apparent Serenity	1
Pakistan-Afghanistan: Interest in Talks	3

Feb 4, 1975

25X1

Qatar*Trouble Simmers Under Apparent Serenity*

The US ambassador in Doha believes there are signs that the ostensibly stable autocracy of Qatar, headed by Amir Khalifa al-Thani, may eventually be headed for trouble. Although no threats to the ruling family are on the immediate horizon, preferential treatment of the large al-Thani family and the unequitable distribution of Qatar's oil wealth are causing grumbling among both Qataris and expatriates. This is creating a favorable climate for subversion sponsored by domestic groups or radical Arab states.

The Amir's generally effective development program has produced a growing cadre of Qatari commoner technocrats who are beginning to express their dissatisfaction with the rewards accorded members of the ruling family. The embassy reports that Qatari technocrats also chafe under their subordination to the aristocracy, and to the foreigners who fill most top jobs, even though these Qataris often lack the qualifications or the inclination to work at such jobs. At the same time, the "new class" tends to take its material prosperity somewhat for granted and probably aspires to freer political institutions such as those in nearby Kuwait and Bahrain.

Another potentially fertile source of trouble for the Amir is the large population of expatriate Arabs--including many Palestinians--whose talents are said to keep Qatar "going". In material terms the expatriate workers are far better off than they would be outside of Qatar or other Persian Gulf states. However, they are discriminated against in pay, fringe benefits, housing, education, and medical care, and they bridle under the domination of the Qataris, whom they disdain. So

(Continued)

February 4, 1975

1

25X1

far the expatriates have been inhibited from anti-regime activity by the ever-present threat of expulsion

25X1

25X1

The US ambassador has noted that Amir Khalifa's sense of insecurity may already be on the rise. The ruler has been delaying the appointment of a crown prince in an attempt to avoid exacerbating intra-family squabbling. He also recently turned down a request by the US for a port call by a US Navy vessel, in keeping with his desire to avoid any hostile public reaction.

25X1

25X1

February 4, 1975

2

25X1

Pakistan-Afghanistan

Interest in Talks

Pakistan and Afghanistan may again be contemplating summit or lower-level talks aimed at easing the friction that has existed between them for the past year and a half. If the two sides hold talks, they will find their differences hard to overcome.

Last December Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto invited Afghan President Daoud to Islamabad for what would have been their first meeting since Daoud took power in July 1973. The chances for such a meeting faded quickly when the Afghans accused Bhutto of prematurely publicizing the invitation, but the Pakistanis did not withdraw the invitation.

25X1

25X1

The two sides differ most sharply over the status of the two Pakistani provinces on the Afghan border. The Daoud regime demands that these provinces, whose people are more closely related to the Afghans than to the Pakistanis, be granted greater autonomy, while Islamabad regards the provinces' status as strictly an internal Pakistani concern. The Pakistanis, moreover, remain unhappy about Daoud's friendly ties with Moscow and New Delhi, both of which provide aid to the Afghan armed forces.

25X1